(b) if so, the status of Rajiv Gandhi Housing Scheme for constructing one lakh houses with the Indian funds;

(c) the action taken to restart the Rameswaram to Talaimannar Ferry Service;

(d) the steps taken for establishing permanent Trade Fair in Katchatheevu; and

(e) the steps taken towards forming Fishermen Federation consisting of fishermen from both countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) to (e) The visit of the delegation was at the initiative of DMK, Congress and VCK parties. They had presented their report after their return to Prime Minister. The salient features of the report include the following observations:

(1) The facilities in the IDP camps are reasonable; however, there is scope for improving these amenities.

(2) Rajiv Gandhi Housing Scheme for homeless IDP families, under which construction of 1 lakh small houses is recommended to directly assist the resettlement process

(3) Resuming of ferry service to Thalaimannar from Rameshwaram.

(4) Establishing a mechanism of Joint Co-ordination system between the fishermen from both the countries to make use of the Katchateevu Island for mutual benefit.

(5) Declaring Katchateevu Island as a Special Economic Zone and setting up of an Indo-Sri Lanka Trade Centre;

(6) Emphasized the importance of a political solution and devolution of powers and has urged Government to insist on Government of Sri Lanka on this issue.

The Government has taken note of these recommendations.

Visit of PM to USA

2357. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian delegation led by Prime Minister of India visited USA, recently, to meet President of USA;

(b) if so, the details of discussion and outcome thereof;

(c) whether the nuclear fuel reprocessing agreement, which was an unfinished component of the India-US Civil Nuclear Co-operation Agreement, 2008 has been also finalized and put in place legally and technically by allowing India to recycle nuclear fuel supplied by the US in a facility that guaranteed non-proliferation;

(d) if so, by when the civil nuclear co-operation agreement would become operational; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) Prime Minister paid a State visit to USA from 22-26 November 2009. He met with President Obama and discussed all aspects of the India-US relationship. The two leaders also exchanged views on regional and global issues of shared interest. The visit has deepened mutual understanding between India and the US and set new directions for India-US Strategic Partnership in a way that will advance India's national interest. The details of *Suo Motu* Statement made in the Rajya Sabha on the subject of PM's visit to the USA on December 3, 2009 is attached together with a copy of the Joint Declaration on : "INDIA AND THE UNITED STATES : PARTNERSHIP FOR A BETTER, WORLD" given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) to (e) The arrangements and procedures related to reprocessing of spent fuel are currently being finalized pursuant to the Agreement on civil nuclear energy cooperation between India and the USA. The consultations are proceeding well within the agreed time lines. Both Governments are committed to implementing the provisions of the Agreement and realizing its full potential.

Statement

Joint Statement between Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Barack Obama 24/11/2009.

INDIA AND THE UNITED STATES: PARTNERSHIP FOR A BETTER WORLD

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Barack Obama today reaffirmed the global strategic partnership between India and the United States, and launched a new phase in this partnership. Commending the deepening bilateral cooperation between the world's two largest democracies across a broad spectrum of human endeavors, the two leaders recognized that the common ideals and complementary strengths of India and the United State today provide a foundation for addressing the global challenges of the 21st century.

The two leaders noted that the shared values cherished by their peoples and espoused by their founders — democracy, pluralism, tolerance, openness, and respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights — are acquiring an increasingly greater prominence in building a more peaceful, prosperous, inclusive, secure and sustainable world. These values are exemplified by the vibrant linkages between their peoples, which are a unique asset for both countries, and are reflected in the role played by the Indian-American community.

The two leaders resolved to harness these shared strengths and to expand the U.S.-India global partnership for the benefit of their countries, for peace, stability and prosperity in Asia, and for the betterment of the world. To this end, they committed to build upon the India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue announced in July 2009. President Obama stated that the United States looks forward to a stable and prosperous India playing an increasingly important role in world affairs.

ADVANCING GLOBAL SECURITY AND COUNTERING TERRORISM

Prime Minister Singh and President Obama recognized that the India-U.S. partnership is indispensable for global peace and security. In this context, the interests of both countries are best advanced through the values mirrored in their societies.

They acknowledged the common threat that international terrorism poses to regional and global security.

They condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and declared that there could be no justification for terrorism anywhere.

On the eve of its first anniversary, President Obama reiterated the United States's condemnation of the terrorist attack in Mumbai in November 2008. The two leaders underscored the absolute imperative to bring to justice the perpetrators of this terrorist attack.

They expressed their grave concern about the threat posed by terrorism and violent extremists emanating from India's neighborhood, whose impact is felt beyond the region. The two leaders agreed that resolute and credible steps must be taken to eliminate safe havens and sanctuaries that provide shelter to terrorists and their activities. These undermine security and stability in the region and around the world.

They vowed to redouble their efforts to deal effectively with terrorism, while protecting their countries' common ideals and shared values and committed themselves to strengthening global consensus and legal regimes against terrorism. They decided on a Counterterrorism Cooperation Initiative to expand collaboration on counterterrorism, information sharing, and capacity building.

The two leaders reiterated their shared interest in the stability, development and independence of Afghanistan and in the defeat of terrorist safe havens in Pakistan and Afghanistan. President Obama appreciated India's role in reconstruction and rebuilding efforts in Afghanistan. The two leaders agreed to enhance their respective efforts in this direction.

The two leaders committed to continue pursuing mutually beneficial defense cooperation through the existing security dialogue, service-level exchanges, defense exercises and trade and technology transfer and collaboration. They recognized the scope for cooperation in the areas of non-traditional threats to security, peacekeeping, humanitarian and disaster relief, and maritime security and protecting sea lanes of communication. They agreed to expedite necessary arrangements to facilitate these activities.

The two leaders agreed that strengthening high technology trade between their countries is in the spirit of their strategic dialogue and partnership. They reiterated their shared commitment to technology security and that it is in their mutual interest to invigorate this area partnership.

Prime Minister Singh and President Obama reaffirmed their shared vision of world free of nuclear weapons and pledged to work together, as leaders of responsible states with advanced nuclear technology, for global non-proliferation, and universal, non-discriminatory and complete nuclear disarmament. Part of that vision is working together to ensure that all nations live up to their international obligations. India reaffirmed its unilateral and voluntary moratorium on nuclear explosive testing. The United States reaffirmed its testing moratorium and its commitment to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and bring it into force at an early date. Both leaders agreed to consult each other regularly and seek the early start of negotiations on a multilateral, non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable Fissile Material Cutoff treaty at the Conference on Disarmament. They noted that nuclear terrorism, and clandestine networks are a matter of grave concern. Prime Minister Singh and President Obama look forward to the April 2010 Nuclear Security Summit and working together with all participating states for the success of the Summit.

ENSURING SUSTAINABLE GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AND A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

Recognizing that energy security, food security, climate change are interlinked, and that eliminating poverty and ensuring sustainable development and a clean energy future are among the foremost global objectives, the two leaders agreed to enter into a Green Partnership to address these global challenges.

They two Leaders reaffirmed their intention to promote the full, effective and sustained implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in accordance with the Bali Action Plan. Recognizing their special role in promoting a successful and substantive outcome at the UNFCCC 15th Conference of Parties at Copenhagen in December, 2009, they reaffirmed their intention to work together bilaterally and with all other countries for an agreed outcome at that meeting.

The two leaders also affirmed that the Copenhangen outcome must be comprehensive and cover mitigation, adaptation, finance and technology, and in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, it should reflect emission reduction targets of developed countries and nationally appropriate mitigation actions of developing countries. There should be full transparency through appropriate processes as to the implementation of aforesaid mitigation actions. The outcome should further reflect the need for substantially scaled-up financial resources to support mitigation and adaptation in developing countries, in particular, for the poorest and most vulnerable. It should also include measures for promoting technology development, dissemination and transfer and capacity building, including consideration of a center or a network of centers to support and stimulate climate innovation. India and the United States, consistent with their national circumstances, resolved to take significant national mitigation actions that will strengthen the world's ability to combat climate change. They resolved to stand by these commitments.

Recognizing the need to create the clean energy economy of the 21st century, Prime Minister Singh and President Obama agreed to launch a Clean Energy and Climate Change Initiative. The goal of the Initiative would be to improve the lives of the people of both countries by developing and improving access to technologies that make our energy cleaner, affordable and more efficient. The Initiative will include cooperation in wind and solar energy, second generation bio-fuels, unconventional gas, energy efficiency, and clean coal technologies including carbon capture and storage. The success of this Initiative is expected to enhance the ability of India and the United States to provide new economic opportunities for their people and create new clean energy jobs.

The two leaders intend to take practical steps to promote global food security, including by advancing the L' Aquila Food Security Initiative. They looked forward to increasing India-U.S. agricultural cooperation with the purpose of promoting agricultural research, human resources capacity building, natural resource management, agri-business and food processing, and collaborative research for increasing food productivity. This cooperation would contribute to joint development of technology that would improve weather forecasting, including predicting monsoons, and technology that would contribute to food productivity and food security efforts in India.

They agreed to collaborate in the application of their space technology and related scientific capabilities in outer space and for development purposes, including in the field of agriculture.

The two leaders reiterated their intention to realize the full potential of the India-U.S. Agreement for Cooperation concerning the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy through the implementation of its provisions. They agreed to expedite U.S. firms's participation in the implementation of this agreement.

STIMULATING GLOBAL ECONOMIC REVIVAL

Prime Minister Singh and President Obama noted the new opportunities offered by their economies and their respective strengths, and their potential for future growth to catalyze global economic growth, and pledged to create conditions that would facilitate their continued expansion.

The leaders also noted that the United States is currently the largest trading partner of India in goods and services. The leaders reiterated their pledge to bolster and deepen cooperation on economic, trade and agricultural issues, including working bilaterally and with multilateral trade organizations to foster increased trade. Both leaders welcomed the potential for further expanding trade and investment between their countries, including in sectors such as infrastructure, information and communication technologies, healthcare services, education services, energy and environmentally friendly technologies.

As members of the G 20, they agreed to advance the G 20 understandings including with regard to energy security and resisting protectionism in all its forms. The two leaders agreed to

facilitate greater movement of professionals, investors and business travelers, students, and exchange visitors between our two countries to enhance their economic and technological partnership.

They committed to strengthen and reform the global economic and financial architecture in the G-20, World Bank and the IMF. They resolved to seek an ambitious and balanced outcome of the Doha Round, consistent with its mandate and reaffirmed their commitment to an open, fair, equitable, transparent and rule-based multilateral trading system.

The two leaders announced their intention to develop a Framework for Cooperation on Trade and Investment. This Framework is expected to foster an environment conducive to technological innovation and collaboration, promote inclusive growth and job creation, and support opportunities for increased trade and investment-including for small and medium-sized enterprises. They agreed to launch the U.S.-India Financial and Economic Partnership to strengthen engagement on economic, financial, and investment-related issues.

The two leaders welcomed the progress achieved in the discussions on a Bilateral Investment Treaty and Pledged to take further initiatives that would contribute to creating a more conducive environment for investment flows.

They recognized the contribution of the business and industrial sectors of both countries in this regard and called upon the India-U.S. CEOs Forum to identify new directions in the India-U.S. economic relationship.

EDUCATING AND EMPOWERING FUTURE GENERATIONS

Recognizing the cultural emphasis on education in both countries, Prime Minister Singh and President Obama emphasized that education holds the key to the advancement of their societies, and to a more prosperous and stable world.

They agreed that access to and development of technology was a cross-cutting requirement to meet the challenges that their two countries face. They acknowledged the fruitful collaboration between the two countries in the fields of education, research and science and technology, which has contributed to their emergence as knowledge societies.

Taking advantage of that strength, President Obama and Prime Minister Singh launched the Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative with funding from both sides to increase university linkages and junior faculty Development exchanges between U.S. and Indian universities, including greater emphasis on community colleges.

They agreed to substantially expand the Fulbright-Nehru program to provide more Student and scholar exchange grants in priority fields such as science, technology and agriculture. The two leaders reaffirmed the importance of expanding cooperation in higher education and research, and according priority to cooperation in the area of skill development.

They also expressed their support for the India-U.S. Binational Science and Technology Commission and the Endowment, which is expected to give a fresh impetus to collaboration in the cutting edge areas of scientific research, technology and development.

The leaders affirmed the importance of women's empowerment to advancing global prosperity and stability, and welcomed the establishment of a Women's Empowerment Dialogue to promote women's participation and equality in all spheres. They emphasized that women's empowerment is a cross-cutting goal that should be pursued across the full scope of U.S-India Strategic Dialogue initiatives.

PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF OUR PEOPLE

Prime Minister Singh and President Obama welcomed the strong collaboration between India and the United States in the area of public health. They agreed to build on existing strong ties across academia and scientific communities by advancing public health and biomedical research collaborations between the United States and India. The two countries plan to establish a Regional Global Disease Detection Centre in India and to build a partnership with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The leaders also pledged to enhance collaboration in controlling diseases such as polio, and discovering new and affordable technologies and treatments for the benefit of their peoples and for those of other countries who seek their assistance.

TOWARDS MORE EFFECTIVE GLOBAL COOPERATION

Prime Minister Singh and President Obama recognized that the India-U.S. relationship is important for managing the challenges the world will face in the 21st century.

The two leaders underscored the compelling need to put in place global institutions which are both inclusive and effective to meet present and future challenges. They welcomed the emergence of the G-20 as a premier forum to deal with international economic issues. The two leaders recognized the scope for their countries to increase cooperation in peacekeeping, development and the promotion of essential human freedoms. They committed themselves to achieving genuine reform of the United Nations including in its Security Council in a manner that reflects the contemporary realities of the 21st century and thereby enhances its ability to carry out its mandate as a representative, credible and effective forum for meeting the challenges of the new century.

Prime Minister Singh thanked President Obama and the people of the United States of America for their generous hospitality and warm welcome. President Obama looks forward to visiting India with his family in the near future.

Washington November 24, 2009

SUO MOTU STATEMENT BY EAM IN PARLIAMENT ON "VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" ON DECEMBER 3, 2009

Hon'ble Chairman, I rise to inform you of the visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister to the USA last week. The Hon'ble Prime Minister has returned to New Delhi after a substantive bilateral visit to the United States of America, a visit that he undertook at the invitation of President Barack Obama of the United States of America.

As both Governments had anticipated, the visit was an occasion to reaffirm the global strategic partnership between India and the United States, and launch a new phase in the bilateral partnership, celebrating the shared values of our two great democracies including pluralism, tolerance, openness, and respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights. The visit was an occasion for India and the United States to reaffirm that their common ideals and complementary strengths provide a foundation for addressing the global challenges of the 21st century. Prime Minister and President Obama resolved to build on these to expand the U.S-India global partnership for, not only our own mutual benefit but also for peace, stability and prosperity in Asia, while making a significant contribution through our partnership in science and technology, towards a better would. President Obama stated that the United States looked forward to a stable and prosperous India playing an increasingly important role in world affairs.

During the visit, Hon'ble Prime Minister and President Obama underscored the compelling need to put in place global institutions which are both inclusive and effective to meet present and future challenges. They committed themselves to achieving genuine reform of the United Nations including in its Security Council in a manner that reflects the contemporary realities of the 21st century and thereby enhances its ability to carry out its mandate as a representative, credible and effective forum for meeting the challenges of the new century. Their discussions covered the need to have an open and inclusive architecture for cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. They welcomed the emergence of the G-20 as a premier forum to deal with international economic issues.

Hon'ble Prime Minister and President Obama reviewed every aspect of the India-US bilateral relationship. During their meeting, the US Secretary of State, Ms. Hillary Clinton and I updated them on the progress of the Strategic Dialogue that we had announced earlier this year on July 20, 2009. They welcomed the understandings that had been formalised and initialed or signed on bilateral co-operation in agriculture, education, health, clean and efficient energy while addressing the impact of climate change and also discussed the next steps in the areas where further bilateral co-operation is in the pipeline. Prime Minister and President Obama discussed issues related to our region which are of immediate concern to both our Governments — particularly the threat of terrorism emanating from our immediate neghbourhood. They looked at the global issues in which India and the USA share an interest in working together to achieve, urgently, a co-ordinated global response to the challenges of climate change,

pandemics and terrorism. They agreed that the India-US partnership was important for addressing the challenges of an increasingly interdependent world and that the global economic crisis had brought home the fact that the prosperity of our nations was interlinked.

Prime Minister's visit to the USA coincided with the eve of the first anniversary of the Mumbai attacks. Naturally, this subject was a priority in Prime Minister's discussions with President Obama. In their discussions, Prime Minister and President Obama underscored the absolute imperative to bring to justice the perpetrators of this terrorist attack and the need for resolute and credible steps to be taken to eliminate safe havens and sanctuaries that provide shelter to terrorists and their activities. They decided on a Counterterrorism Cooperation Initiative to expand collaboration on counterterrorism, information sharing, and capacity building.

They reiterated the shared interest of India and the USA in the stability, development and independence of Afghanistan and in the defeat of terrorist safe havens in Pakistan and Afghanistan. President Obama conveyed that India's role in the reconstruction and rebuilding efforts in Afghanistan was very much appreciated by the US Administration as well as the US Congress. Both leaders were united in their commitment to continue-and enhance - the efforts of India and the USA to help the Afghan people in their development. Prime Minister told President Obama and the US Defense Secretary who called on him that it was imperative for the USA and other countries presently involved in security and capacity building in Afghanistan to stay the course as long as the Afghan Government required their presence and assistance in their various rebuilding efforts.

In the field of defense, Prime Minister and President Obama agreed to continue mutually beneficial defense cooperation through the existing security dialogue, service-level exchanges, defense exercises and trade and technology transfer and collaboration and to expedite necessary arrangements to facilitate these activities.

Prime Minister and President Obama also reaffirmed their shared vision of a world free of nuclear weapons and pledged to work together, as leaders of responsible states with advanced nuclear technology, for global non-proliferation, and universal, non-discriminatory and complete nuclear disarmament. They agreed to consult each other regularly and seek the early start of negotiations on a multilateral, non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty at the Conference on Disarmament. They spent some time talking about nuclear security and the dangers posed by nuclear terrorism and clandestine networks. President Obama will host a Nuclear Security Summit in April 2010 : Prime Minister and President Obama agreed to work together with all participating states for a fruitful outcome of that meeting.

Sustainable development and clean and efficient usage of energy being a central theme in our bilateral co-operation, it was agreed to enter into a Green Partnership to address the global

challenges of food security, clean energy and energy security. Prime Minister and President Obama announced the launch of a Clean Energy and Climate Change Initiative. The Initiative that was signed on November 24, 2009 includes cooperation in wind and solar energy, second generation bio-fuels, unconventional gas, energy efficiency, and clean coal technologies including carbon capture and storage. During the visit, Memoranda of Understanding were concluded with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory of the USA for collaboration with our own Solar and Wind Energy Research Centres respectively. In a few weeks from now, the meeting of the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC will take place in Copenhagen. Both Prime Minister and President Obama agreed on the need for a substantive and comprehensive outcome, which would cover mitigation, adaptation, finance and technology. Prime Minister stressed and President Obama agreed that the outcome of the Copenhangen meeting should also include measures for promoting technology development, dissemination and transfer and capacity building, including consideration of a center or a network of centers to support and stimulate climate innovation. They reaffirmed their intention to work to this end bilaterally and with all other countries. Prime Minister drew President Obama's attention to India's own ambitious National Action Plan on Climate Change which has eight national missions covering both mitigation and adaptation.

To promote global food security is was agreed to take practical steps, including by advancing the L' Aquila Food Security Initiative. Bilaterally, Prime Minister and President Obama agreed to increase India-U.S. agricultural cooperation through a memorandum of understanding on agricultural cooperation and food security with the purpose of promoting agricultural research, human resources capacity building, natural resource management, agri-business and food processing, and collaborative research for increasing food productivity. An important element of this co-operation is the joint development of technology that would improve weather forecasting, including predicting monsoons, and contribute to food productivity and food security efforts in our country. It was also decided that both countries would collaborate in the application of our space technology and related scientific capabilities in outer space and also for development purposes-including in the field of agriculture.

With regard to the Agreement on civil nuclear co-operation signed between India and the USA on October 10, 2008, both Prime Minister and President Obama reiterated their intention to realize full potential of that Agreement through the speedy implementation of its provisions.

Naturally, they recognized the new opportunities offered by the strengths of the respective economies of India and the USA to catalyze global economic growth, and discussed how both countries could create conditions that would facilitate their continued expansion. In this context, they agreed to accord special attention to US investment and collaboration in developing India's

key sectors — the building of our infrastructure, information and communication technology sector, healthcare services, education services, energy and environmentally friendly technologies. It was agreed to launch the U.S.-India Financial and Economic Partnership to strengthen engagement on economic, financial, and investment-related issues. It was agreed that the conclusion of the Bilateral Investment Treaty that our Governments are presently discussing would be a welcome development and both leaders looked forward to the further initiatives that will be taken to create a more conducive environment for investment flows. Prime Minister and President Obama also recognized the contribution of the business and industrial sectors of both countries in this regard and called upon the India-U.S. CEOs Forum to identify new directions in the India-U.S. economic relationship.

Prime Minister and President Obama agreed that it was particularly important to invigorate and strengthen high technology trade between our countries. The USA is currently India's largest trading partner in goods and services. They both reiterated their commitment to increase cooperation on economic, trade and agricultural issues, working bilaterally and with multilateral trade organizations to foster increased trade. They resolved to seek an ambitious and balanced outcome of the Doha Round, consistent with its mandate and reaffirmed our commitment to an open, fair, equitable, transparent and rule-based multilateral trading system.

During Prime Minister's visit, a Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) Access Agreement between the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and US Patent and Trademark Office was signed — which will help prevent misappropriation of traditional knowledge through mistaken issuance of patents as had earlier happened with *neem* and *haldi*.

An MoU was also signed between the office to the Government of India Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks, and the US Patent and Trademark Office which would facilitate comprehensive bilateral cooperation on a range of IPR issues focusing on capacity building, human resource development and raising public awareness of the importance of IPR.

A Memorandum of Intent was signed to promote two-way investments between 'Invest in America' of the US Department of Commerce and 'Invest India', a joint venture of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion and various State Governments of India and FICCI concerning the promotion of investment in the US and India. By facilitating exchange of information regarding opportunities for investment and about policies related to investment this MoI seeks to accelerate the growing investment flows in both directions which are benefiting both countries.

Both leaders agreed to facilitate greater movement of professionals, investors and business travellers, students, and exchange visitors between our two countries to enhance our economic and technological partnership.

Prime Minister and President Obama also committed to strengthen and reform the global economic and financial architecture in the G-20, World Bank and the IMF. They further agreed that as members of the G-20, both Governments would advance the G 20 understandings including with regard to energy security and resisting protectionism in all its forms.

They announced the intention of both Governments to develop a Framework for Cooperation on Trade and Investment that would foster an environment conducive to technological innovation and collaboration, promote inclusive growth and job creation, and support opportunities for increased trade an investment - including for small and medium-sized enterprises.

In the field of education, in which both Governments have a mutual interest, Prime Minister and President Obama agreed that fruitful collaboration in research and science and technology should be vigorously pursued. They launched a Knowledge Initiative with a total funding of USD 10 million that will be allocated to increasing university linkages and junior faculty development exchanges between U.S. and Indian universities, including greater emphasis on community colleges. Our Fulbright-Nehru program will be expanded to provide more student and scholar exchange grants. Prime Minister and President Obama agreed to build on existing strong ties across academia and scientific communities by advancing public health and biomedical research collaborations between the United States and India. A Memorandum of Intent has been signed on the establishing of a Regional Global Disease Detection Center in India in Partnership with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Both leaders envisage close co-operation between our doctors and scientists in discovering new and affordable technologies and treatments for the benefit of our peoples and for those of other countries who seek their assistance.

Through the India-US Binational Science and Technology Commission and the Endowment, it was agreed to give fresh impetus to collaboration in the cutting edge areas of scientific research, technology and development.

Both leaders also agreed that the Governments of India and the USA had much to share in the area of women's empowerment — which will be a cross-cutting goal across the full scope of our Strategic Dialogue initiatives.

Lastly, it was agreed that India-US ties draw heavily on the strength and vitality of the Indian and American people. The 2.7 million strong Indian-American community are a powerful factor in strengthening the bonds between our two societies and building the trade and economic linkages between them.

President Obama specially acknowledged, in his words, the "*incredible contributions that India-Americans have made to the growth of USA*" *and*, "*the degree to which they are woven into the very fabric of US Society*".

In their discussions, Prime Minister and President Obama reaffirmed the importance of the India-US relationship and decided on future steps to enhance this strategic partnership. There was a meeting of minds on the future direction of India-US relations. Prime Minister stated that he was deeply impressed by President Obama's strong commitment to the India-US strategic partnership and by the breadth of his vision for global peace and prosperity. Prime Minister also stated that he saw his visit as the opening of a new chapter in an essay in mutual comprehension.

It was the first state visit hosted by the Administration of President Barack Hussein Obama. Prime Minister conveyed that India appreciated the honour and fully reciprocated the desire of the Obama Administration to deepen the bonds between the peoples of the United States and India and strengthen and broaden the partnership between both nations. Prime Minister has invited President Obama to visit India with his family and told him that a warm welcome awaits them when they visit India.

CHOGM-2009

2358. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister attended Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting CHOGM-2009, recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA) : (a) and (b) Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh led India's Delegation to the CHOGM 2009 in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago (27-29 November 2009). The Summit theme: "Partnering for a more Equitable and Sustainable Future", as well as, global developments, including, Climate Change and issues concerning Youth were discussed. On the sidelines, Hon'ble Prime Minister held bilateral meetings with the President of France, Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand, Denmark, Sri Lanka and Mauritius.

(c) At the end of the Summit, the following declarations and statements were issued (available at *www.thecommonwealth.org*):

i. CHOGM Communique.

ii. Trinidad and Tobago Affirmation on Commonwealth Values and Principles.

iii. Port of Spain Climate Change Consensus: The Commonwealth Climate Change Declaration.

iv. The Declaration of Port of Spain: Partnering for a More Equitable and Sustainable Future.

v. Statement on Commonwealth Action to Combat Non-Communicable Diseases.

vi. 'Investing in young people': A Declaration on young people by Commonwealth Heads of Government.